

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 HEW-08 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 020940Z AUG 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: ECOSOC 55 - ITEM 22 - REPORT OF UN DISASTER RELIEF
COORDINATOR

REF: GENEVA 3868

1. SUMMARY. UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR BERKOL PRESENTED STATEMENT INTRODUCING HIS REPORT (A/9063) TO COORDINATION COMMITTEE JULY 27, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY MADAGASCAR AMBASSADOR RABETAFIKA INTRODUCTION DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED DURING FLOOR DEBATE. US REP (KITCHEN) STATEMENT CLOSELY FOLLOWED DEPT INSTRUCTIONS (UNEC D-597/73) INCLUDING CALL FOR RE-LOCATION UNDRO. IN GENERAL, DONOR COUNTRIES EXPRESSED QUALIFIED SATISFACTION FOR PERFORMANCE OF UNDRO WHILE LDCS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RECIPIENTS OF UN ASSISTANCE, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SUCH AID. FULL TEXT OF RESOLUTION WHICH ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS JULY 30 APPEARS BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BERKOL PRESENTED WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE INITIAL STATEMENT TO COORDINATION COMMITTEE
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JULY 27 (STATEMENT POUCHED SEPARATELY TO DEPT AND

USUN). MAJOR POINTS EMPHASIZED WERE 1) UNDRO'S CONCEPT OF ITS ROLE IN DISASTER RELIEF, I.E., "UNDRO WILL MOST NORMALLY BE INVOLVED WHEN THERE IS A SUDDEN AND CATASTROPHIC DISASTER"; 2) NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF TO ENABLE OFFICE TO CARRY OUT PROVISIONS OF GA RES 2816 (XXVI); AND 3) PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN REGULAR BUDGET RATHER THAN WITHDRAWALS FROM WORKING CAPITAL FUND (WCF). IN CONNECTION WITH POINT ONE ABOVE, THE COORDINATOR HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED CRITICISM FROM SEVERAL DELEGATIONS RE HIS LACK OF VISIBLE ROLE IN SAHELIAN RELIEF PROJECT.

3. MADAGASCAR REP, ON BEHALF OF NUMBER OF LDC CO-SPONSORS, INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COORDINATOR'S REMARKS. DELS REMARKS, THEREFORE, DIRECTED TO BOTH UNDRO PERFORMANCE AND DRAFT RES. (UPON LEARNING OF LDC DRAFT PREVIOUS AFTERNOON, USDEL CONSULTED WITH SPONSORS AND WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO ORIGINAL, INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF NINE PREAMBULAR PARAS, AND MORE ACCEPTABLE PARA RE EMERGENCY STOCKPILES.) MADAGASCAR AMBASSADOR PROPOSED THAT \$500,000 BE SET ASIDE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN THE \$200,000 PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED "AT APPROPRIATE TIME" THE CREATION OF SPECIAL FUND FOR DISASTER RELIEF FINANCED BY DONORS AND RECIPIENTS TO COVER FOOD STICKS, EQUIPMENT AND PRE-DISASTER PLANNING ACTIVITIES. HE ALSO PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN FUNDS AVAILABLE TO UNDRO FOR PRE-DISASTER PLANNING.

4. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS OF TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA, TUNISIA, PHILIPPINES, ECUADOR, ALGERIA, KENYA, BELGIUM, YEMEN, CHILE, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, EGYPT GENERALLY SUPPORTED INITIAL UNDRO ACTIVITIES. A NUMBER OF THESE COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM UNDRO DURING THE PAST YEAR AND EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE.

5. MORE CRITICAL COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED AT UNDRO BY UK REP WHO INDICATED "EFFICIENCY AND CAPABILITY WERE NOT YET ALL THAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED". UK ACCEPTS 1974 STAFFING COMPLEMENT, SUBJECT TO ACABQ RECOMMENDATIONS. REFERRING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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\$20,000 LIMIT ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY DISASTER RELIEF, UK POINTED OUT ANY SUBSTANTIAL RELIEF MUST BE FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

6. REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA RECALLED DEEP SYMPATHY OF CHINESE PEOPLE FOR DISASTER VICTIMS. CHINESE RED CROSS HAS AIDED MORE THAN THIRTY COUNTRIES BY PROVIDING CASH, FOOD, CLOTHES, MEDICAL SUPPLIES. WORK OF UNDRO IMPORTANT TO

CHINC WHICH FACED WITH NATURAL DISASTERS. IN THIS REGARD, HE EXPRESSED HOPE UNDRO WILL "RAISE EFFICIENCY OF HIS OFFICE".

7. FRENCH DEL UNDERLINED FACT UNDRO IS COORDINATION OFFICE WHILE UNDP SHOULD PROVIDE ACTUAL LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE. WHILE FRANCE DOES NOT OBJECT TO STAFF INCREASE WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS, SUCH INCREASE SHOULD BE DECIDED BY GA FIFTH COMITE.

8. KENYAN DEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INFORMATION BANK ACTIVITIES WOULD BE EXPANDED AND THAT UNDRO ACTIVITIES WOULD BE BETTER PUBLICIZED. HE SUPPORTED TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM WCF TO REGULAR BUDGET WHILE NOTING THAT "NOTHING IS PERFECT BUT SINCE IT IS A HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY, WE SHOULD GIVE UNDRO SUPPORT". ONE OF FEW DELS TO REFER TO TRANSFER OF OFFICE, HE NOTED IT UNNECESSARY TO OPEN DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT SINCE IT MIGHT BRING UP QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF OTHER OFFICES FROM NEW YORK TO GENEVA.

9. REP OF BRAZIL STATED THAT HIS GOVT NOT YET CONVINCED THAT INCREASED STAFF REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED THAT STAFF BE RECRUITED LOCALLY DURING EMERGENCIES.

10. REMARKS OF USSR DEL LIMITED TO DRAFT RESOLUTION OF WHICH THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM WCF TO REGULAR BUDGET NOR STUDY RE EMERGENCY STOCKPILES. INTENSIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOVIET REP AND AMB. RABETAFIKA RESULTED IN DRAFT ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH.

11. US REP PRESENTED FORCEFUL INTERVENTION UNDERLINING OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT GRADUAL ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BY UNDRO; OUR HOPE THAT UNDRC WILL GIVE UTMOST ATTENTION TO ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION WITHIN UN SYSTEM; OUR LACK

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OF OBJECTION TO TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM WCF BUT OUR BELIEF \$200,000 SUFFICIENT FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AT PRESENT; OUR CONCERN THAT BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE HAS BECOME UNWEILDY WITH TWO UNDER SECRETARIES GENERAL INVOLVED IN DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES. IN REGARD TO LATTER POINT, WE STRESSED IF SITUATION NOT IMPROVED, WE SHALL CALL FOR RELOCATION OF OFFICE TO NEW YORK. IN CONCLUSION, WE EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR UNDRC TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS.

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

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12. AS A RESULT OF MORE PROTRACTED DEBATE THAN EXPECTED ON THIS ITEM, UNDRC BERKOL PRESENTED ANOTHER STATEMENT "CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY UNDRC" (POUCHED SEPARATELY TO DEPT AND USUN) IN WHICH HE RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. WITH REGARD TO DUPLICATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, BERKOL STATED: "THE FACT THAT THE OFFICE OF ANOTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL...., WAS ENTRUSTED ALSO WITH THE DUTY OF SERVING AS THE LIAISON POINT FOR THE COORDINATOR IN NEW YORK CAN BE INTERPRETED AS A REFLECTION OF THE SYG'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND CONCERN IN DISASTER MATTERS".

13. QUOTED BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF CONSENSUS RES ADOPTED BY COORDINATION COMITE JULY 30. CO-SPONSORS WERE ALTERIA, MADAGASCAR, MALI, NIGER, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, TUNISIA, TURKEY AND YEMEN. QUOTE. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

1. TAKES NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR DURING HIS FIRST YEAR OF ACTIVITY (ASTERIK) AND THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE CO-ORDINATOR IN THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE;

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2. EXPRESSED ITS SATISFACTION AT THE MANNER IN WHICH
THE CO-ORDINATOR IS DISCHARGING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES;

3. RECOMMENDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXAMINE THE
MOST EXPEDITIOUS PROCEDURES FOR THE RELEASE OF EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE FUNDS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE VIEWS EX-
PRESSED ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE COORDINATION COMITE AS WELL
AS IN THE REPORT OF THE SYG;

4. FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
2816 (XXVI) BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY
IN SUCH IMPORTANT FIELDS AS THE PREVENTION, CONTROL AND
PREDICTION OF NATURAL DISASTERS, AND THE COLLECTION AND
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENTS;

5. REQUESTS THE CO-ORDINATOR TO FOLLOW UP HIS ACTIVITIES
AND EXPAND HIS CONTACTS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING BETTER
DISASTER PREVENTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND IN ORDER
TO ENSURE MORE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
WHEN A DISASTER STRIKES;

6. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO
HELP DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES TRAIN THE RELIEF PERSONNEL
THEY MAY NEED AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT;

7. INVITES THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TO SYSTEMATIZE THE ACCELERATED PROCEDURE ALREADY ESTAB-
LISHED FOR MEETING THE EMERGENCY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
SUBMITTED BY DISASTER-STRICKEN COUNTRIES;

8. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE COMPETENT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, TO STUDY THE
MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF MAINTAINING AND UTILIZING
EMERGENCY STOCKPILES EXISTING IN THE APPROPRIATE UN
AGENCIES FOR THIS PURPOSE FOR ASSISTANCE TO DISASTER
VICTIMS;

9. INVITES ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS
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OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
CONCERNED WITH DISASTER-RELATED MATTERS TO CONTINUE TO
GIVE THE CO-ORDINATOR THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT.
(ASTERIK)E/5303. END QUOTE.BASSIN

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